

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA wish: Less red tape

Gonzalez defends appointment of 2 execs

THE PUBLIC CAN EXpect a more responsive and action-oriented administration next year, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.



Parade of movie stars opens Metro Manila filmfest

This time, Mike A plays Santa to kids



Trader finds lucky stars in 'parol'

Ghosts of tsunami victims still haunt Thailand



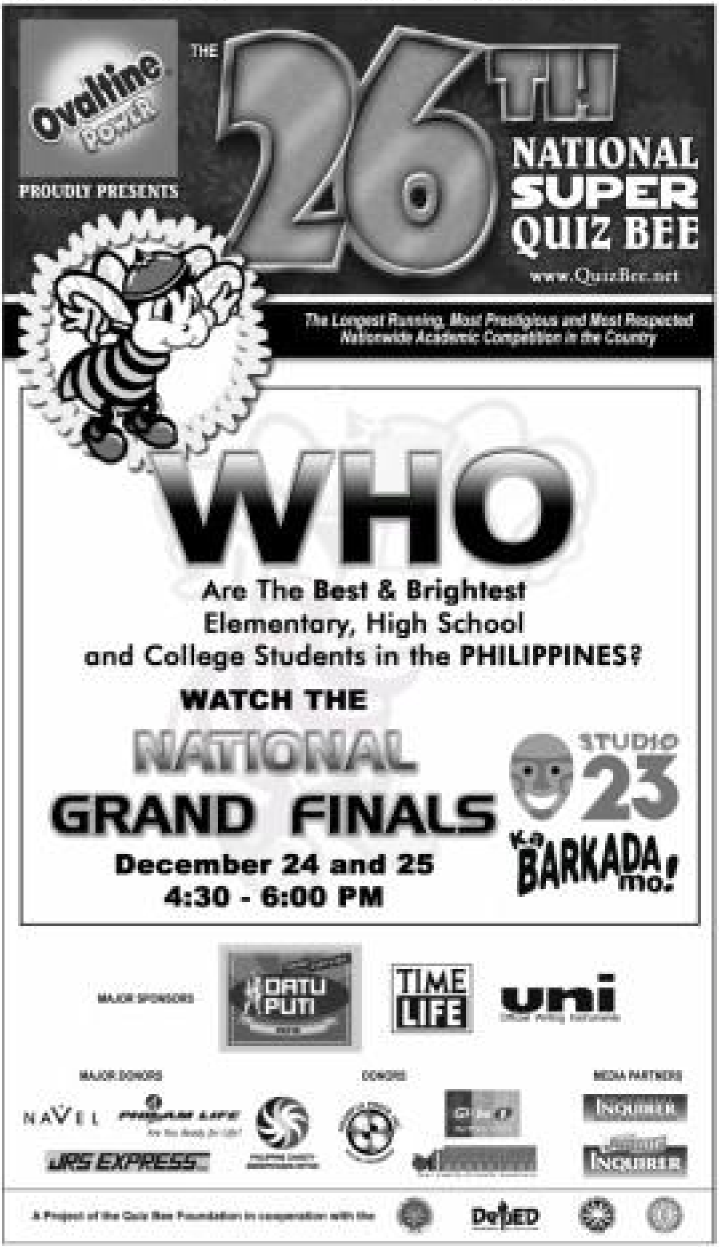
WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Moro rebs recruiting, says AFP

Truce just for show, Reds say

VP Noli calls for ceasefire from bickerings



FVR defection could tip balance vs GMA–Abat

[illegible]



'Wykes' laid to rest at Libingan

[illegible]



PEACE AWARDS

[illegible]

GMA wish: Less red tape

Surplus collection

Yap's case

'Cut paperwork'

Arrest warrants

This time, Mike A plays Santa to kids



A merrier Christmas

Arroyo's wish

Trader finds lucky stars in 'parol'



Hard work pays off

Luxury not priority

How to beat odds

Key is craftsmanship

Ghosts of tsunami victims still haunt Thailand



Bird-shaped boat

Fear of ghosts

Temple shelters

Christmas trees reflect signs of times





Parade of movie stars opens Metro Manila filmfest

The WORLD



US set to shrink troops in Iraq

FALLUJA, IRAQ—US DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD said on Friday the number of US combat forces in Iraq would be cut by some 7,000 by early next year, but the numbers involved in training Iraq's new military would increase.

Italy nears deal with New York's Met on looted art



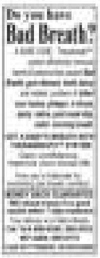
UN votes for budget, averts crisis

Report: US spied for nuke bombs on Muslim sites

Reuters

S. Korea fraud shakes stem cell field

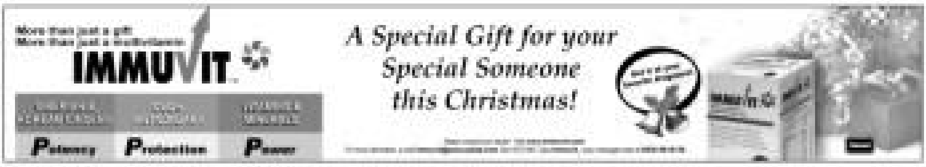
AP











One year after, tsunami toll remains elusive

Key events of 2005

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

THAI villagers holding colorful flags make their way to Bang Muang beach Dec. 24 for a memorial ceremony for last December's tsunami victims in southern Thailand.



Key events of 2005

From page A8

bers carried out by four British Muslims.

In yet another devastating bomb attack in Iraq, suicide attackers kill 32 children in Baghdad as US troops are handing out sweets. A British study estimates that almost 25,000 Iraqi civilians have died in violence since the invasion in 2003.

The United Nations condemns Zimbabwe for a controversial slum clearance project.

Multiple bombings kill 88 people in an Egyptian Red Sea resort.

In London, armed police hunting terrorists shoot dead an unarmed Brazilian man in a train.

The Irish Republican Army says it is giving up its armed campaign and becoming an ordinary political movement.

Aid workers struggle to combat a famine in the west African state of Niger.

August

Saudi ruler King Fahd dies and is replaced by his half brother Abdullah.

A videotape shows a top al-Qaida leader threatening Britain and the United States with more attacks.

Citizens of the Japanese city of Hiroshima mark the 60th anniversary of its destruction by a US atomic bomb.

A US space shuttle flies for the first time since an accident in 2003.

The United States and the European Union issue the first of a series of warnings to Iran over what they suspect are moves to build a nuclear bomb.

A wildcat strike in support of workers at a catering firm causes massive disruption at London's main airport.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is forced to apologize for a corruption scandal.

In one of several major air disasters during the year, all 121 people aboard a Cypriot airliner die when it crashes in Greece after suffering a sudden loss of cabin pressure.

In its first ever unilateral withdrawal from an occupied territory, Israel pulls its settlers out of the Gaza Strip.

Fires aggravated by parched conditions rage over much of southern Europe, with Portugal suffering the most.

The worst season in the Gulf of Mexico proves to be a record-breaker. One of the biggest hurricanes, Katrina, breaks through levees protecting the US city of New Orleans, causing massive floods that kill at least 500 people and reveal woefully inadequate disaster preparations, particularly for the large majority of the population who are poor and black.

Oil prices go over $70 a barrel in New York.

Almost 1,000 pilgrims die in a stampede on a Baghdad bridge, apparently sparked by rumors that there were suicide bombers among them.

September

An airliner crashes into a residential area in Indonesia, killing at least 150 people.

President Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine, fires his entire government over a corruption scandal.

Veteran leader Hosni Mubarak scores an easy win in the first Egyptian elections open to more than one candidate.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi wins a snap election called over plans to privatize the country's post office.

Rebels in Indonesia's Aceh province begin handing over their guns under a peace agreement.

An election results in deadlock in Germany, with the conservatives under Angela Merkel ahead of the outgoing Social Democrats but without enough seats to form a stable coalition. Over two months of horse-trading ensue before Merkel becomes the country's first-ever woman chancellor.

Afghanistan holds parliamentary elections.

US Army private Lynndie England gets three years in jail for her role in the torture of detainees in Iraq.

John Roberts is sworn in as chief justice of the US Supreme Court, after the death of William Rehnquist.

October

The European Union opens membership talks with Turkey.

A massive earthquake hits divided Kashmir. Over 70,000 people die and millions more are homeless in a remote region with winter approaching.

An estimated 2,000 people die when a tropical storm triggers mudslides and floods in Guatemala.

China sends two astronauts into orbit on its second manned space mission.

European countries take measures to stem the arrival of avian flu, believed to be carried by migrating birds.

Russian special forces intervene after an attack by militants on the Caucasus city of Nalchik kills over 100 people.

Iraq holds a referendum on its constitution, which is adopted despite a "No" campaign among Sunni Muslims.

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad over crimes committed during his reign. He defiantly pleads not guilty.

The death toll for US troops in Iraq passes the 2,000 mark, with opposition to the war mounting at home.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran calls for Israel to be "wiped off the map," the first of several such statements.

A top aide to US Vice President Dick Cheney is indicted over a leak aimed at answering criticism of the war in Iraq.

Rosa Parks, a black woman who came to symbolize the struggle for US civil rights when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, dies aged 92.

Rioting breaks out in poor suburbs of Paris, and later spreads to other cities. Over three weeks some 9,000 vehicles and numerous buildings are torched by fire. (To be continued.) AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Day One

EDITORIAL



Peace on this wounded world

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



It's HIS birthday

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



An old soldier and Christmas

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

A Christmas card

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Kenosis: The message of Christmas

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

A wish for Isabela

REBEL WITHOUT A CUE



Patricia Evangelista

TALK of the TOWN

Editor Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

Yuletide reflections

CHRISTIANS COMMEMORATE TODAY THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH. FOR many, it is a time for hope. It's a time for wishing something better would come one's way. What one wishes for usually depends on his or her station in life. For the unemployed, it's finding work or the means to support themselves. For executives, it could be driving a newer sports car. But there are wishes common to people of different social classes—peace and happiness.

This Yuletide season is also a time for gift-giving. It's no longer gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Three Magi from the East presented to an infant more than 2,000 years ago. Increasingly, the presents that people give to loved ones, godchildren and friends come from tiangge because these are cheaper than those that can be found in malls.

This season is also a time for reflection. Pope Benedict XVI speaks of the light during the feast of Christmas—Jesus Christ—who can "illuminate those who lie in darkness."

"[O]n seeing the streets and squares of our cities adorned with glittering lights, let us remember that these lights evoke another light, invisible to our eyes, but not to our hearts. Contemplating them, when lighting the candles of churches or the Nativity and Christmas tree lights in our homes, may our spirits open to the true spiritual light brought to all men and women of good will. The God with us, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary is the Star of our lives!" says the Pope.

'May our spirits open to true spiritual light'

By Pope Benedict XVI

Love

Rising sun



A Christmas whodunnit: Who killed the little match girl?

By Raul V. Fabella

'In the bitter cold by the door of a warm and happy home, she starts to hallucinate. She sees visions of steaming food, of glowing warmth, and of the only being from whom she had known love—her grandma'

Busy

Docile

Foresight

Alms

Let streetchildren find shelter in churches

By Fech Suzara

Across the NATION

Court battle looms over mining project

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE PROPOSED gold-copper mining project in an upland village in Kasibu town could end up in a fierce court battle, as those opposing the project have vowed to question its approval despite its supposed lack of social acceptability.

Rains damage Surigao farms, Visayas roads



G-string Nativity scene in Benguet town

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Nursing board topnotcher says she's staying home

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau



PANGILIA

ROUNDUP

Mats for Albay inmates



Mindoro's civic worker dies

Landslide kills farmer

Ex-radioman slain in Laguna

Triplets are guard's best gifts on Christmas

2 more miners found in collapsed Cebu tunnel

INQUIRER Mindanao

Christmastime in the city for Davao 'lumad'

'The best Christmas we can receive from the people from the city and the gov't is respect for our rights to our lands and peace'





'Kaamulan Festival' strengthens ties among Higaonon folk



NBP inmates explore world of art

By Jocelyn R. Uy





Street children treated to day of fun

By DJ Yap

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 25, 2005

METROBRIEFS

Too pricey!



Stronger partnership sought

High-tech record keeping



Hospital marks centennial

Enchanted fireworks display

3 hurt in Valenzuela plastic factory fire

Parañaque mayor gets Christmas gift

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EZ2 SUERTRES SIX DIGIT

METRO

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

P13,910,507.20

Grandpa inspires hope by teaching doll making





TALES OF THE CITY

Reluctant student

RP is 'Italy of Asia'

Just a hobby

Sunday SPORTS



Christmas Day affair

Cone hopes to erase ghost of yuletide past

TIM CONE EXPERIENCED HIS WORST HOLIDAY SEASON WHEN the Alaska Aces lost the championship to the Coca-Cola Tigers in the year-ending 2002 All-Filipino Cup right on Christmas Day.

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Red Bull	[illegible]	[illegible]
Air21	[illegible]	[illegible]
Talk 'N Text	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ginebra	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alaska	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sta. Lucia	[illegible]	[illegible]
San Miguel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca-Cola	[illegible]	[illegible]



Good tidings! Bautista triumphs anew



Choice of 10 key sports a concern of all—Puentevella

PHILRACOM CLASSIC OPEN

Wild Orchid bags P1-M pot

By Mauny R. Cruz

CARMONA, CAVITE—WILD ORchid broke out of the gates hard and showed too much class in thumping the 2005 Philracom Classic-Open Championship field yesterday under ace rider Fernando Raquel to claim the P1 million top prize.



HEATED ACTION

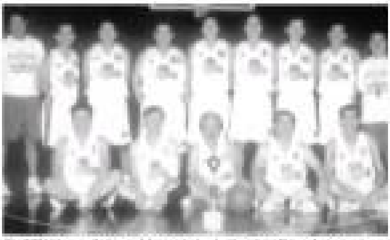
Sharapova pulls out of Aussie tourney

Gonzales eyes last GM norm



Roxas, partner top Tantoco golf

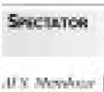
Kaya FC booters in semifinals



World slasher set

Christmas story

SPECTATOR



D.Y. Mendoza



Nets post 5th straight win; Iverson's 53 go for naught

MIAMI—VINCE CARTER TIED A CAREER HIGH with 51 points, 37 in the second half, and the New Jersey Nets extended their season-high winning streak to five games with a 95-88 victory over the Miami Heat in the NBA on Friday.



Complete results

Jones, Hopkins agree to return bout March 11



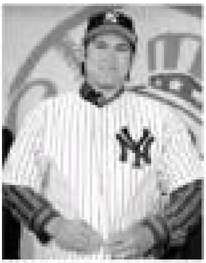
JONES

I'm a poet not a beast, says 7-foot champ



VALUEV

It's great to be a Yankee—Damon



WORLD BASEBALL

Castro says Bush a 'fool' to keep Cuba out of Classic



CASTRO



BUSH

Sunday SPORTS

YEARENDER

Yes, the Filipino athletes can

RP sports heroes prove worth by giving country first SEAG crown

By Roy Luarca

ONE BY ONE THE GOLD medals piled up. Courtesy of Filipino athletes who delivered to give the Philippines its first ever overall title in the Southeast Asian Games.





WITH three gold medals, Miguel Molina also shone for the country

Up next for boxers: Olympic gold

SEA Games sweep gives dragonboat a big boost

Espiritu spearheads Langkawi-bound cyclists





DUPAQUIER

Sunday Biz

More than just good looks

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GOOD LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.



WITH DAUGHTERS, Charlotte & Olivia, at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa in June 2005.



"BEHIND enemy lines" at Beirut, Lebanon in 1983

Joining paratroopers

New mission

First job



WITH PARTNERS, Cary & Charlie Rufino, at topping off ceremony of Net2 on Dec. 14, 2005, 40 days ahead of schedule

Seaweed gives this family a good Christmas



COMPARED to land-based farming, "agar-agar" is less laborious and requires only a small capital.

ADR to fastrack decisions on construction cases

Pyrotechnics industry fires up



HISTORY has it that fireworks were among the first items bartered in the Philippine-China trade.

Raising the bar

Booming business

Initiatives from the top

Playing it safe



SM tries different expansion strategy

ADR to fastrack decisions ...

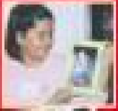
From viajera to fashion designer



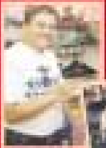
Sunday LIFESTYLE

OFW Christmas



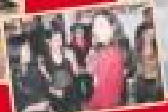














Alone for the h
in Central Ame



'Paskuhan' in Taiwan

Filipinos fill the St. Chrisopher Church in Taipei and dine and exhange gifts in Pinoy restos and cafeterias around the church

No time for loneliness

A song for Dia



Videoke songfest

Stripped

Emptying—a lesson for Christmas

Scary

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Balikbayan Christmas

nne



Helper-nanny Emmie Ramal plays Santa Claus to her adoptive daughter thousands of miles away

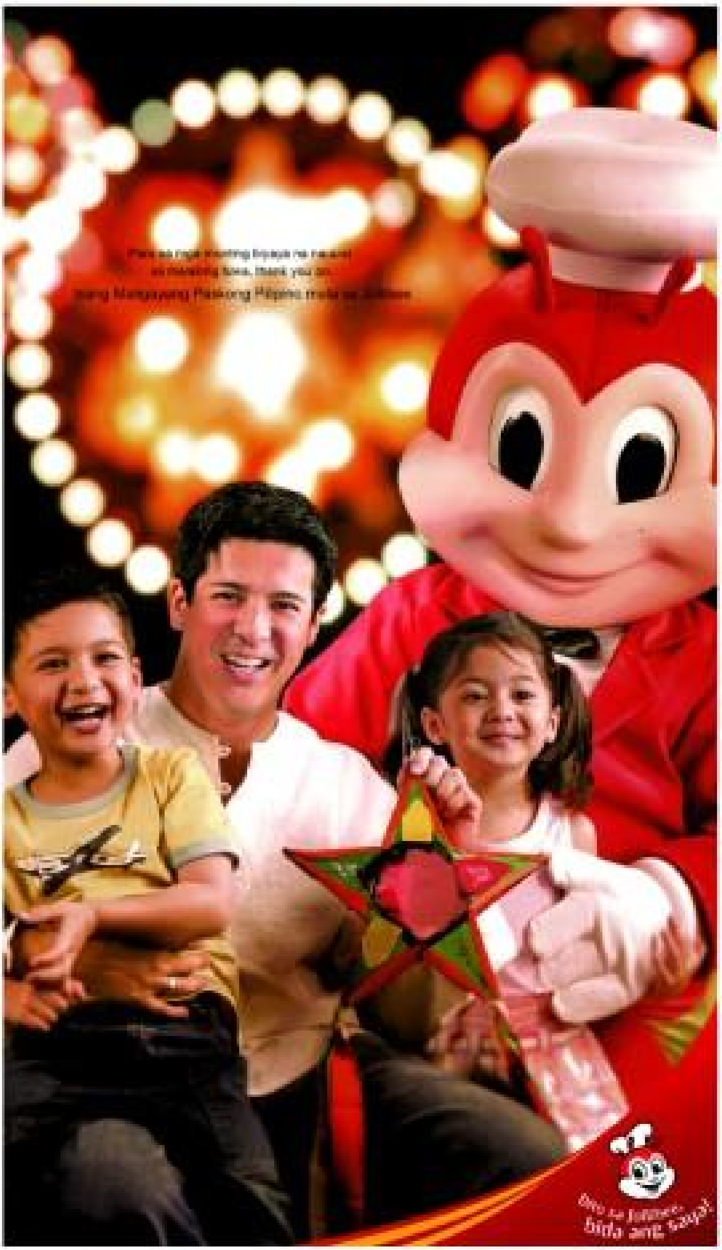
'Balikbayan' Christmas



Home from Saudi

By [illegible]

Home from work in the Middle East and UK, Filipinos can't wait to celebrate Christmas the good old Pinoy way



Home from the UK

